Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Previously Presented) A method for allowing a user to define custom metadata schemas, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a plurality of metadata schemas;

(b) providing information to a client computer for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema;

(c) storing the custom metadata schema in the metadata library; and

(d) allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata schemas to apply to a resource.

2 (Cancelled)

3 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) further includes the step of:

(i) providing the server with management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

4 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein step (a) (i) further includes the step of: adding references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the metadata schema.

5 (Cancelled)

6 (Cancelled)

7 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) further includes the step of:

(i) allowing the user to define the custom metadata schema from one of the plurality of ~~an existing~~ metadata schemas.

8 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein step (b)(i) further includes the step of:

(1) allowing the user to search for one of the plurality of ~~the existing~~ metadata schemas by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names;

(2) displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria; and

(3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

9 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the step of: allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond ~~those~~ the constraints supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

10 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further includes the step of: allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

11 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further includes the step of: allowing the user to specify which metadata schemas are ~~required to be~~ associated with particular resource types.

12 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein step (d) further includes the step of:

(i) associating user account information with the resource type and required metadata schema information; and

(ii) automatically applying required metadata schemas specified for the type of ~~electronic~~ resource when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

13 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: including in the metadata library a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

14 (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein step (a) further includes the step of: requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

15 (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of allowing the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving ~~required~~ metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

associating the data values with the resource and saving.

16 (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing program instructions for allowing a user to define custom metadata schemas, the instructions for:

(a) providing a network accessible server with a metadata library comprising a plurality of metadata schemas;

(b) providing information to a client computer for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema;

(c) storing the custom metadata schema in the metadata library; and

(d) allowing the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata schemas to apply to a resource.

17 (Cancelled)

18 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of:

(i) providing the server with management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

19 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein instruction (a) (i) further includes the instruction of: adding references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the metadata schema.

20 (Cancelled)

21 (Cancelled)

22 (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (b) further includes the instruction of:

(i) allowing the user to define the custom metadata schema from one of the plurality of ~~an existing~~ metadata schemas..

23 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 22 wherein

instruction (b)(i) further includes the instruction of:

(1) allowing the user to search for one of the plurality of metadata schemas by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names;

(2) displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria; and

(3) allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

24 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 further including the instruction of:

allowing the user to supply a software validator to enforce constraints beyond the constraints supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

25 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of: allowing the user to upload the resource to the server.

26 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of: allowing the user to specify which metadata schemas are associated with particular resource types.

27 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 26 wherein instruction (d) further includes the instruction of:

(i) associating user account information with the resource type and

required metadata schema information; and

(ii) automatically applying required metadata schemas specified for the type of resource when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

28 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 27 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: including in the metadata library a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

29 (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 28 wherein instruction (a) further includes the instruction of: requiring all images in the network to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

30 (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 further including the instructions of allowing the user to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

associating the data values with the resource and saving.

31 (Currently Amended) A metadata management system, comprising:

a server in communication ~~with the client computers~~ over a network with a plurality of client computers each storing respective resources, the server including:

a metadata library containing a plurality of metadata schemas, each metadata schema comprising a plurality of properties and constraints on values for the properties ~~have~~, and

a Web application for providing ~~form~~ information to ~~a user computer~~ one of the plurality of client computers for presenting a form-driven user interface that allows the user to specify, without using syntax required by an underlying specification language, a plurality of properties, including constraints supported by the underlying specification language, to thereby define a custom metadata schema for storage in the metadata library, wherein the Web application allows the user to search the metadata library to select at least one of the metadata schemas to apply to a resource**[[**s**]]**.

32 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the Web application further functions to allow the user to upload one of the resources to the server, wherein the selected metadata schema is applied to the resource.

33 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the server includes management capabilities that allows a user to define metadata schemas, add references to the library to metadata schemas existing external to the metadata library, and set user permissions for the metadata schemas in the library.

34 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33 wherein the user adds references to external metadata schemas by providing a universal resource indicator and name of the

metadata schema.

35 (Cancelled)

36 (Currently Amended) The system of claim 31 wherein the Web application allows the user to define the custom metadata schema from one of the plurality of metadata schemas.

37 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the Web application allows the user to define the custom metadata schema from one of the plurality of metadata schemas by:

allowing the user to search for one of the plurality of metadata schemas by entering search criteria that include schema names and property names,

displaying metadata schemas matching the search criteria, and

allowing the user to select properties from the displayed metadata schemas to add to the custom metadata schema.

38 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 further including a software validator running on client appears to enforce constraints beyond the constraints supported by an underlying specification language, wherein the software validator is called when metadata associated with the schema is created or changed, but after constraints enforced by the specification language have been verified.

39 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the user is allowed to specify which metadata schemas are associated with particular resource types.

40 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39 wherein the Web application

associates user account information with the resource type and required metadata schema information, and to the required metadata schemas specified for the type of resource are automatically applied when the server receives the resource by checking the user's account and retrieving the required metadata schemas specified for the resource type.

41 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40 wherein the metadata library includes a universal schema, shared schemas, and private schemas.

42 (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein requiring all resources stored on the server are required to include metadata that is specified by the universal schema.

43 (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31 wherein the user is allowed to assign a metadata instance to the resource by:

retrieving metadata schemas specified for a resource type of the resource;

merging the retrieved metadata schemas and removing duplicate properties;

generating and displaying forms that allow the user to enter data values for the properties;

validating the data values based on schema constraints; and

associating the validated data values with the resource and saving.